



10th Annual **BUG DAY**

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014 1 pm – 4 pm

Bugs rule!

Have you ever tried to imagine a world without insects and other invertebrates? At first you might say “hurray, no mosquitos!” Ponder that for just a second though... without insects our world would be a far different place. A far worse place. Invertebrates are overlooked and underappreciated. They are essential pollinators, decomposers, food for critters (and people), and so much more.

Join **Wehr Nature Center** in celebrating the wonderful world of invertebrates at *Bug Day*. Crowd favorites including “**The Bug Whisperer**”, the **Crawly Critter Café**, and the **Insect and Spider Zoo**

will all be returning. There will be crafts for kids, experts answering insect questions, and guided insect safari hikes. Bring your cameras, because the kids can dress up as their favorite bug with Dr. Arthra Poda.

Watch a beekeeping demonstration, learn how to turn your backyard into a butterfly garden, and see butterfly specimens from around the world.

Help us make the 10th Anniversary of Bug Day the best yet for six-legged fun!

Join us as Wehr Nature Center celebrates nature’s underappreciated champions.

Fee: \$3 per person, \$2 for Friends of Wehr Members

Regular \$3 parking fee, become a FOW Member to receive discounts and free parking!

No registration is needed for this event, so grab the larvae and head out to Wehr!

10th Annual
Sunday
September 14
1 - 4 pm



The Pumpkins Are Coming!

Follow the Jack-o-lanterns to Wehr’s 26th Annual

Halloween Haunts

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings

October 16, 17 & 18

Hikes start every 7 minutes between 6:30 and 8:30 pm

Halloween Haunts educates families about misunderstood nature in a kooky, slightly spooky way. Enjoy hundreds of exquisite Jack-o-lanterns, learn from friendly characters in the Enchanted Forest and enjoy a magic show and carnival games. Don't miss Milwaukee's premier family Halloween event.

Advance Tickets Required \$10 per person; \$7 per person, Milwaukee County Resident or Friend of Wehr Member

Tickets go on sale in September. See page 10 for details.



Center News

Wehr Helps Local Elementary School Create School Forest

Amazing things can happen when kids and nature get together. Just ask the 5th and 6th grade students at Ben Franklin Elementary School. The students of science teacher Sharon Hushek walked into a woods choked with invasive weeds and litter behind their school in the fall of 2012. It was a tangle of Buckthorn so thick you couldn't take two steps without dodging a thorn. This June those same children lead kindergarteners along a wood-chipped nature trail, pointing out wildflowers and critters, sharing the story of their forest. The transformation of this little remnant oak woodland into an outdoor learning lab started with a vision. With the help of Wehr Nature Center, grants from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) and the hard work of students, parents, school staff, scouts and community volunteers the vision is now a reality.

The accomplishments of the Franklin Foresters (6th graders) and Buckthorn Busters (5th graders) are impressive on many levels. Most obvious is the physical change to the woodland. Where there was once an impenetrable wall of Buckthorn there is now open space and wildflowers. Kids and parents worked with Weed Wrenches and removed 10 dump trucks worth of Buckthorn. Wehr's Natural Areas Manager Mark Verhagen thinned trees to provide light to the 150+ year old oaks.

A wood-chipped nature trail now winds through the forest thanks to Eagle Scout Matt Nichols. Critters like deer, fox, a Great Horned Owl, and a Cooper's Hawk make their home there.

The woodland has been transformed from an eyesore that was off limits to school children to a safe place where the whole school community can learn.

The forest project not only transformed the land, it transformed the students. The children worked weekly in the woods in fall and spring and each trip outside lead to new questions, discoveries and dreams. The Fifth Graders raised money to have an artist carve a walnut snag that stands at their trail entrance into a totem tree. They built bird houses and developed signs, activities and field guides about the plants and animals in the woods. Both classes worked to complete the Franklin Forester web-site.

Visit tinyurl.com/franklinforesters to see all their great work! The Sixth Graders researched the Department of Natural Resources School Forest program and went to the Franklin School Board with a proposal to register their woods. They interviewed experts, met with the mayor and created an action plan to make sure their woods would be protected into the future. This project has taught them that they have the power to make positive changes in their world and has helped them grow into environmental leaders.



The Buckthorn Busters loved pulling Buckthorn



The Ben Franklin School Forest Nature Trail was officially opened on June 9th. Stop by and take a look at this special nature place. Just like the children who rescued it, it is a diamond in the rough!

The Franklin Foresters were National Finalists in the Siemens "We Can Change The World Challenge"

Building Repairs Are Never In Their Home Stretch

It seems that something always happens when planning and implementing construction projects...weather, scope of work, funding. The good thing is that there always seems to be more forward movement than steps backward. The good news about our project to replace Wehr's decayed siding is the bids have been received. The bad news is the bids all came in high and the project is under review. Good news is that thanks to generous donations to the Friends of Wehr, new windows for the Gardner Room have been purchased and are in storage waiting to be put in. The new windows that have been installed are wonderful! On really windy days there is no longer a draft coming through the building. We are now raising funds to replace the shades for the Gardner Room and staff offices. Thank you to Wehr's Camera Club for our first donation toward the new shades for the Gardner Room. Any donations for the new shades will be welcome and should be made out to Friends of Wehr.



Friends Of Wehr

Thank You!

Your contributions to the Friends of Wehr are appreciated and always used with careful consideration.

DONATIONS

Anonymous
Carole Geddes-Engel
Sharon Fliess
A.J. & L.A. Greco
Gary Smieja
Mary Medo
Dorothy Meyer
Carol Block
Mary Simmers
Jeff & Dorothy Mrazek
Ron Felzer
WI Metro Audubon Society Inc.
Tri City National Bank
Patricia Casillo
PyraMax Bank
Wooly John Dimmick, Jr.
Rachel Finger

MEMORIALS/DONATIONS

In Memory of Mary Kay Koeber
Marge Lochbaum
In Memory of Linda Luebke
Gary & Sandra Bjerke
Barbara Brady
Suzanne Breier
Robert & Judith Evans
John & Roberta Gleason
Michael & Donna Hutchinson
Brian & Gail James
Karen Kaebisch
Christine Krueger
Scott Lawrence
Patricia Luebke
Jody & Eugene Wicichowski
Kaye Vance
Dennis & Mary Pat Pfeil
Richard & Susan Nuccio

Carol Miller
Ray & Mary McInerney
Judy Hayashida
Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama

NEW WINDOWS

David & JA Millin
Wild Ones
Rockwell Automation

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

Greg Joers
Mary Cywinski
Bonnie Ruel
Mark Silverman
In Memory of John Jubeck
Debra Cerniglia
Donna Welch
Trudi & Robert Groth
Marilyn Jubeck

IN-KIND DONATION








Mike & Susan Archer
Betty Storey

Thank you to
Jackie Crivello's
Wild Birds Unlimited for their
continuing support in
keeping our feeders full and
our birds happy.
Please support their
business located at
4454 S. 108th St.
Greenfield.


Wild Birds Unlimited

OCTOBER 5, 2014
Noon - 5pm

Autumn Fun for the Whole Family

-  Press Apple Cider
-  Taste Homemade Apple Butter
-  Create Your Own Autumn Crafts
-  Go On a Guided Nature Walk
-  Bid in the Raffle and Silent Auction
-  Feast On Our Famous Apple Desserts
-  Buy Local Apples

Admission: \$3/PERSON; 2yrs & Under Are Free
FREE For Friends of Wehr Members

Join FOW on Cider Sunday and get a whole year of free parking, discounts in the Nature Store, program discounts, and access to early ticket sales for Halloween Haunts.



**Music by the
Bluegrass All Stars**





Heart Your Park Campaign Raises Funds

Thank you to Southridge Macy's for choosing the Friends of Wehr Nature Center as their 2014 "Heart Your Park" partner. Customers of the Macy's Southridge donated over \$300.00 to Friends of Wehr during March as part of Macy's Gives Back campaign. Jennifer Duffy, store manager and frequent Wehr Nature Center visitor, said she and her sales associates at Macy's Southridge were very excited to be able to support a park in their own community. Thank you Macy's customers and Macy's for your support.



Nature Volunteer News

Upcoming Opportunities for Current Volunteers

Dotty's Crafters: Wednesdays, July 9, August 6, September 3; 1-3 pm

Earth Care: (Plant related tasks - on the job training provided)
Thursdays, July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31; August 7, 14, 21 & 28;
September 4, 11, 18 & 25; 9-11 am

Bug Day: Sunday, September 14; 12:30-4:30 pm

Teaching Naturalist Trainings:

Visible Thinking Workshop: Tuesday, September 9, 9 am-3 pm

Puppet Show & Possum Adventures Programs:

Wednesday, September 10, 9am-Noon

Soil Secrets & Insect Programs: Thursday, September 11, 9am-Noon

Ecosystems & Nature's Neighborhoods Programs:

Friday, September 12, 9 am- Noon

Adopt A Beach Coastal Clean-up at Grant Park

Saturday, September 20, 9 am-Noon

Become a citizen scientist and help clean up the Grant Park Beach as part of the Alliance for Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach Program. The Adopt-a-Beach program is more than just a beach sweep. Teams will conduct litter removal and monitoring, and also complete a beach assessment form that provides scientists with information on the health of the area and how it is used by people. To learn more, visit: <http://www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach>.

Training, forms and equipment will be provided.

Meet at Wulff Lodge, Grant Park in South Milwaukee, WI 53172. For map, go to: www.countyparks.com. Contact Pat at patricia.fojut@ces.uwex.edu for more details.

Open to the Public. No fee or registration is required.



Ongoing Opportunities

Phenology, Wheel n' Chip, Critter Care, Teach School Groups, Trail Patrol

To sign up to help, call 414-425-8550.

New volunteers are always welcome!

Contact Mary Gaub today at

mary.gaub@ces.uwex.edu



Volunteer Coordinator Update

Please welcome Mary Gaub as our new part-time

Volunteer Coordinator.

Mary has been a naturalist with Nature in the Parks

since 1988 and will continue in that role

as she adds additional hours

to become our

volunteer coordinator. Mary has already managed several special events and has been interviewing new volunteers regularly. Wehr is looking forward to Mary's attention to details and ability to keep things organized.

Since the volunteer coordinator position will be half-time, other staff will be helping Mary get the job done. Emily Brown will continue to work with the college and high school service learners, Deb McRae will coordinate corporate volunteers, Mark Verhagen will continue working with Eagle Scouts, and Breeann Behrendt will keep track of volunteer records.



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Hike for Health 10:30 am	3 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	4  Happy 4th Wehr Nature Center Is Closed	5
6	7 Little Wonders Two Year-Olds 9:30-10:30 am Three Year-Olds 11 am-Noon	8	9 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	10 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	11 Fireside Fridays "Howling At The Moon" 7:30-9:30 pm	12 Solar Viewing 1-5 pm
13 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	14 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	15	16 Hike for Health 10:30 am	17 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	18  Moth Night 7:30-9:30 pm	19 Into The Wild- Volo Bog 9 am-4 pm
20	21	22	23 Hike for Health 10:30 am	24 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	25 Fireside Fridays "Twilight Travelers" 7:30-9:30 pm	26
27	28	29	30 Hike for Health 10:30 am	31 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	<div> For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply. </div>	

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Little Wonders Two Year-Olds 9:30-10:30 am Three Year-Olds 11am-Noon	5	6 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	7 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	8 Fireside Fridays "Nighttime Flyers" 7:30-9:30 pm	9 Night time Sky Viewing 8-10 pm
10	11	12	13 Hike for Health 10:30 am	14 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	15	16
17	18	19	20 Hike for Health 10:30 am	21 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	22 Bat Night 8-10 pm	23 Into the Wild Carver Roehl County Park and Rock River Prairie State Natural Area 9 am-4 pm
24 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	25 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am	26	27 Hike for Health 10:30 am	28 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	29	30
31	For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply.					

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  LABOR DAY 2014 Wehr Nature Center Is Closed	2	3 Hike for Health 10:30 am Dotty's Crafters 1-3 pm	4 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	5	6 Night time Sky Viewing 7-10 pm
7	8 Little Wonders Two Year-Olds 9:30-10:30 am Three Year-Olds 11am-Noon	9 Wehr Astronomical Society 7 pm TBA Teaching Naturalist Visible Training 9 am-3 pm	10 Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am- Noon Hike for Health 10:30 am	11 Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am- Noon Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	12 Teaching Naturalist Training 9 am- Noon	13 Into the Wild- Lion's Den Gorge 9 am-4 pm Wehr Camera Club 9-11 am Wild Ones 1:30-3:30 pm
14  Bug Day 1-4 pm	15 <u>Halloween Haunts</u> Tickets On Sale To Friends of Wehr 9 am	16	17 Hike for Health 10:30 am Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society "Red Hot Chile Peppers" Mike Wanger, Milwaukee-area Birding Enthusiast 7 pm	18 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	19	20 Birding Beyond The Feeder- Mystery of Migration 9 am-Noon Adopt-a-Beach Clean up at Grant Park 9 am - Noon
21 NatureNauts 1-2 pm	22 NatureNauts 9:30-10:30 am <u>Halloween Haunts</u> Tickets On Sale To The Public 9 am	23	24 Hike for Health 10:30 am	25 Earth Care Crew 9-11 am	26	27
28	29	30	<div> For more information call 414-425-8550 All programs & events subject to change. Parking fees may apply. </div> 			



Nature Discovery For Children

Little Wonders

A program for 2 and 3 year olds to share with their favorite adult

9:30-10:30 am for Two Year Olds 11 am-Noon for Three Year Olds

Buzzy Bees Monday, July 7

Buzz on over to Wehr to enjoy this honey of a program! Tots will make their own honey bee costume and then buzz around learning the many jobs of a worker bee. We will visit with the bees in our display hive and enjoy a snack of their honey.

Turtle Time Monday, August 4

Crawl out of your shell and come to the Nature Center to learn about these rascally reptiles. We will read *Box Turtle at Long Pond* by William T. George, make a turtle craft, and eat a snack of favorite turtle foods. Wehr's resident turtles will be on hand for the children to meet and touch, and we will walk to the pond to search for turtles, weather permitting.

Wiggly Worms Monday, September 8

Worms are wonderful! Tots will get a chance to dig for their own worm, make some wormy art, and even eat a worm (gummy, of course!). We will read *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glaser. Come prepared for a short walk in the woods to find some worms.

NatureNauts

A series of fun-filled programs for children 4-6 years old and their favorite adult.

1-2 pm for Sunday Classes

9:30-10:30 am for Monday Classes

Fish Tales Sunday, July 13 & Monday, July 14

Fish are fascinating. Children will learn about our slippery, scaly friends, make Gyoatoku prints (Japanese fish art) and dip their poles into our imaginary fishin' hole. We will visit with Wehr's resident Blue Gill and walk to the pond to look for fish.

Super Snakes Sunday, August 24 & Monday, August 25

Slither over to Wehr to learn why snakes really are super. NatureNauts will learn about snake's amazing adaptations, make some snake art and meet and touch Wehr's resident reptiles.

Jumping Grasshoppers Sunday, September 21 & Monday, September 22

Can you out jump a grasshopper? Have you ever seen a grasshopper spit? NatureNauts will learn about these amazing insect athletes, go on a grasshopper hunt, participate in a grasshopper jump-off and enjoy a grasshopper story and craft.



Pre-registration is required for all children's programs Deadline is the Wednesday before the program date
Fees: \$10 per child \$7 Milwaukee County Residents \$5 Friends of Wehr Members



FRIENDS OF WEHR NATURE STORE

Equip Your Little Entomologist for
Summer Insect Adventures—
Bug Catchers, Magnifiers, Critter Condos
and Books for all reading levels

All proceeds go to Friends of Wehr to support the
educational programs at Wehr Nature Center. Open 8:30 am-4 pm

Shop In The Beauty Of Nature



Nature Discovery for Adults

Into the Wild with Mark

Weekend explorations to regional natural areas of interest lead by Wehr's Natural Areas Manager **Mark Verhagen**.

Volo Bog

Saturday, July 19, 9 am-4 pm

We'll be visiting the only "quaking" bog in Illinois that has an open water center. Volo bog has boardwalks and hiking trails that are part of a 1/2 mile interpretive trail.

Carver Roehl County Park

Saturday, August 23, 9 am-4 pm

In the morning we'll be visiting Carver Roehl County Park in Rock County, and in the afternoon going to Rock River Prairie State Natural Area. Both of these areas offer stunning views and at Carver Roehl we'll be hiking along a stone bluff.

Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve

Lion's Den Gorge &

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

Saturday, September 13, 9 am-4 pm

Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve represents one of the last stretches of undeveloped bluff land along the Lake Michigan shoreline, from Mequon up to Port Washington. Forest Beach Migratory Preserve is an Audubon Property south of Harrington Beach State Park. Come along for some good hiking for scenery and bird watching.

\$25 per person \$10 for Friends of Wehr

Transportation is provided or on your own.

Registration is required by the Friday before the program.



Meet real live Bats!
Discover the fiction,
folklore, and facts
on Bats. Learn how
you can participate
in Citizen Science
projects to help our diminishing Bat neighbors.

Friday, August 22, 8-10 pm

Fees: \$10 per person

\$7 Milwaukee County Residents

\$5 Friends of Wehr Members

Registration is required by August 21



Hike for Health

Hike along with this group that walks Wehr's trails together for camaraderie, exercise and fun.

Meet in the Visitor Center.

Every Wednesday. Time: 10:30 am

No fee or registration required; regular parking fee in effect



Birding Beyond The Feeder

The Mystery of Migration

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 am-Noon

Curious about the comings and goings of birds? Which ones migrate and why? How do they know where to go?

Why do they fly in a "vee"? Explore some of the mysteries, misconceptions and theories of migration. A birding hike is included in the session. For eager early-risers, there will be a pre-session hike at 7:30 am.

\$15 per person \$12 for Milwaukee County Residents

\$10 for Friends of Wehr Members

Registration Is Required By Friday, September 19





Nature Discovery for Families



A series of evening nature discovery programs for families. Enjoy a twilight walk and then share a campfire dessert by the fire pit.

Howling At The Moon July 11, 7:30-9:30 pm

The beacon of the night lights up the darkness, but how much do you really know about the moon? Explore moon myths and discover what really goes on during the full moon. Do crazy things really happen on the full moon? We'll see for ourselves on a moonlit walk. Then it's back to the amphitheater for campfire treats.

Twilight Travelers July 25, 7:30-9:30 pm

As your bedtime approaches, the crepuscular critters come out to play. Learn about the crepuscular (active at dusk and dawn) and nocturnal wildlife of southeast Wisconsin. The night closes with campfire treats.

Night Flyers August 8, 7:30-9:30 pm

Things don't always go bump in the night, sometimes they flutter and fly. This lively campfire program highlights bats, owls, flying squirrels, and other night fliers. Take a short hike to explore the habitats of Wehr under the cover of darkness. Campfire treats will also be served.

\$10 per person \$8 for Milwaukee County Residents

\$6 for Friends of Wehr members

Recommended for Ages 5 and older. Registration is recommended by the Wednesday before the program



Moth Night

Friday, July 18, 7:30-9:30 pm

Moths rule the night! Participate in Moth Night, a citizen-science event during National Moth Week. We will learn about these misunderstood cousins of butterflies and discover how their adaptations help them master the darkness and foil their predators. After an indoor presentation, we go outside to monitor bait stations and record our findings.

Registration Required by Thursday, July 17

\$10.00 per person \$7.00 for Milw. County Residents

\$5.00 for Friends of Wehr Members



Astronomical Viewing

Join members of the Wehr Astronomical Society for sky viewing at Wehr Nature Center.

No registration needed. Free and open to the public.

Location: **Wehr Nature Center**

Daytime Solar Viewing

View sunspots and solar flares through a special filtered telescope. Cloudy skies cancel event.

Saturday, July 12, 1-5 pm

Nighttime Sky Viewing

Look through a telescope and learn about the night sky with experts. Cloudy skies cancel event.

Saturday, August 9, 8-10 pm ; September 6, 7-10 pm



Sunday, September 14 1-4 pm

See front page for details

Halloween Haunts Ticket Sales

Friends of Wehr Member Sales Start Monday, September 15, 9 am

Friends can take advantage of this opportunity to have the first chance for tickets to this popular event. You will need to have a current family membership to take advantage of this benefit. You can purchase tickets in person or over the phone with a credit card. To become a member, visit www.friendsofwehr.org or call (414) 425-8550.

General Public Tickets Sales Start Monday, September 22, 9 am

Don't be a zombie! Purchase your tickets for our popular Halloween Haunts early, or you won't have a ghost of a chance. Halloween Haunts is a fun, educational, nature-oriented Halloween event for families with children ages 4-10 yrs.

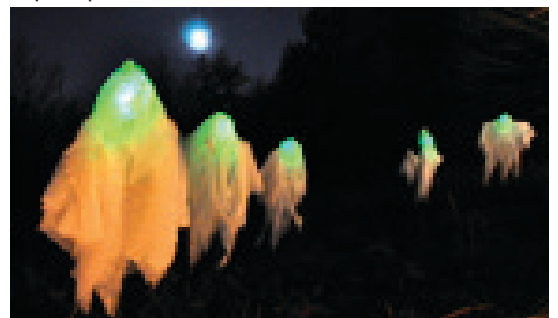
Ticket Prices: \$10/Per Person; non-Milwaukee County Resident

\$7/Milwaukee County Residents & Friends of Wehr members

Tickets should be picked up at Wehr Nature Center.

There is a \$5 service fee per order to mail tickets.

Halloween Haunts is October 16, 17, and 18, 2014





Community Organizations

Wehr is fortunate to host several organizations who share their passion and knowledge about the natural world with the public. For more information about these organizations and details about their programs, please visit their web-sites or call Wehr (414) 425-8550.

Wehr Camera Club is dedicated to sharing a passion for photography and nature.

Visit <http://wnccameraclub.com/sch.html> for program information. Public programs are held the second Saturday of each month, September to June, from 9-11 am.

Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society that encourages environmental stewardship through education and conservation. Public programs are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9 pm, September to May. Visit <http://www.wimetroaudubon.org> for program information.

Wild Ones, Natural Landscapers Inc. supports the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities by promoting the use of native plants in landscaping. Meetings are held at WNC from 1:30-3:30 pm the second Saturday of each month from September to April. Visit www.wildones.org for program information.

Wehr Astronomical Society is a group of amateur astronomers that promote the study of astronomy.

White Nose Syndrome Found In Wisconsin

The long feared White-nose syndrome (WNS) was detected in an abandoned Wisconsin mine in Grant County and announced by the DNR this April. Wisconsin conservationists nervously awaited its arrival as the disease spread through caves and mines across the US. Since its discovery in New York in 2006, WNS has killed up to 5 million bats and has spread to 23 states. White-nose syndrome is caused by fungus and is named for the white fuzz found on bat's noses, wings and tails. The fungus agitates bats in hibernation and causes them to break their slumber. This frequent stirring depletes the bats' precious energy stores and can cause them to starve or become dehydrated before spring.

Wisconsin is a favored winter home for bats and hosts some of the Midwest's largest hibernaculum sites. Historical estimates have shown the population to be 350,000 to 500,000 bats, many of which make their way to other Midwestern states. WNS is easily spread from bat to bat and bat to cave and kills approximately 95% of infected colonies. This spells disaster for bat populations, the likes of which have never been seen in a mammal population. This precipitous decline is bad news for humans too. A single bat can consume thousands of insects in a night. Imagine a summer evening without bats! For a creature of the night, they are shining a bright light on the delicate nature of our ecosystem and the interdependence of humans and their bat neighbors.

In anticipation of this ominous bat plague, Wisconsin groups have joined forces to monitor bat populations, educate cave & mine owners as well as the general public about bat ecology and conservation. Wehr's **Bat Night (Aug. 22)** highlights the myths and folklore surrounding bats and shares the amazing ecology of these flying mammals. The program also features wildlife rehabilitation specialists with live bats and a nighttime hike to listen and record data using bat monitoring equipment. For details, see p.9. To learn more about White Nose Syndrome visit: www.whitenosesyndrome.org and www.batcon.org.



©Alan C Hicks, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Bee A Friend To Pollinators

This summer as you admire the beauty of a wildflower or enjoy the taste of fresh tomatoes, squash and blueberries, take time to thank a pollinator. While non-native, domestic Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) work to pollinate large scale agricultural crops such as almonds, oranges, watermelons and cherries, our native bumble bees, solitary bees, butterflies and even ants are the primary pollinators of our native plants and backyard gardens. Honey bees came to North America with European settlers in the 1600's and quickly escaped to form wild populations, but our native pollinators evolved with plants in our natural landscapes. Did you know that honeybees are not effective pollinators of native crop plants such as eggplant, tomatoes, pumpkin, cucumber and other squash? These plants need bumblebees and solitary bees like Squash Bees to collect and spread their pollen. Wildflowers may be visited by honeybees, but the native



A Bumblebee covered in Purple Coneflower pollen

©Selva Ramakrishnan

pollinators are significantly more efficient at spreading their pollen from plant to plant. Like the honeybees, our native pollinators are in trouble. Factors such as pesticide use, habitat loss, lack of forage species and nesting sites are stressing our native pollinators and many species are in widespread decline. There is also evidence that some of the same diseases that are decimating our honeybee populations can spread to native bees. Environmental problems sometime seem so daunting that individuals feel like no small thing they can do will make a difference. When it comes to saving our native pollinators what you do in your own backyard or patio makes a **HUGE** difference. We can all be a friend to pollinators by taking these basic actions:



A Red Admiral Butterfly drinks nectar from a Purple Coneflower

©Selva Ramakrishnan

Create A Pollinator Friendly Yard

Stop or limit use of pesticides. If you must use insecticides, apply in the evening when bees are less likely to visit and avoid application to flowers.

Plant Native Flowers

Plant a variety of natives so there are forage plants from spring until fall. For great ideas on creating a native yard, get involved with the Wehr Chapter of the Wild Ones.

<http://www.wildones.org/chapters/milswest/>

Then click their Facebook link.



Plant a pollinator garden
to help Monarchs
©Selva Ramakrishnan

Got Milkweed?

Milkweed is an essential forage plant for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars, but it is disappearing from the landscape due to urbanization and the use of GMO (genitically modified organisms) crops that promote overuse of herbicides. To find a local source of milkweed to plant in your yard visit the Xerces Society Seed Finder at <http://www.xerces.org/milkweed-seed-finder/#search>

Diversify Your Yard

Grass is a wasteland for pollinators. Allow forage plants such as dandelions, clover and violets to share your space.

Monarch Watch: <http://www.monarchwatch.org>

Join the international effort to save the Monarch Butterfly. Learn how to observe and tag butterflies.



Monarch caterpillar

Help Monitor Pollinator Populations

Scientists need our help to learn more about native pollinator habits and populations. Become a citizen scientists and do some backyard research.

Bumble Bee Watch <http://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>

Learn how to identify and count the native bumblebees that visit your yard or park. To learn more about identifying native bees, read these great resources.

USDA Bee Basic Book-<http://www.pollinator.org/PDFs/BeeBasicsBook.pdf>

UW-Extension Supporting Native Bees-<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Supporting-Native-Bees-Our-Essential-Pollinators-P1629.aspx>

The Great Sunflower Project: <http://www.greatsunflower.org>

Count all the pollinators that visit a sunflower (or other spot in your garden) and report your finds to this national network.

Be An Advocate For Pollinators

Everyday decisions are made by our local governments that impact pollinators.

Preserving habitat, creating native plant friendly ordinances, and planting native plants in our public spaces will not happen without citizen involvement. Consider joining these local efforts to preserve pollinators.

Milwaukee Monarch Trail: <http://www.themonarchtrail.org/>

Help this organization support an important Monarch Butterfly migration corridor here Milwaukee County.

Planting Natives In Our Highway Corridors: Contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and let them know that you support planting native seed mixes along our highways. Contact the Milwaukee Monarch Trail group or the Wehr Wild Ones for updates on local construction projects.

Support National Efforts: <https://www.nrdcgreengifts.org/butterfly-beauty>

The NRDC has a dedicated gifting program to fund milkweed planting nationally. You can also support their efforts to increase Monarch populations through legal actions.

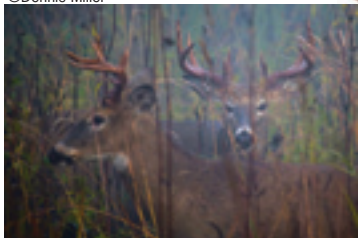
At Wehr Nature Center
9701 W. College Ave.
Franklin, WI 53132 In Whitnall Park
Open Daily 8-4:30
(Check for holiday hours)

wehrrnaturecenter@milwcnty.com

Upcoming In Fall 2014

Flavors of Fall Fundraiser
November 15, 5-7:30 pm

©Dennis Miller



White-tails 101
November 22,
2:30-4:30 pm

Homemade Holidays
December 6, 11am-3 pm



**Learn more about activities
and events throughout
the Milwaukee County Parks**

Wish List

Contributions of any amount will be appreciated for:

- HD Video Camera with microphone input
- Hydraulic Log Splitter
- PC Laptop for use with Volunteer Records
- iPad 3 or 4

If you are interested in donating any of these items,
or would like to contribute money toward their purchase,
please contact Deb at (414) 425-8550.

Your contributions are tax-deductible when made to the Friends of Wehr.



LOOK FOR
US ON
[FACEBOOK](#)

FOLLOW
US ON
[TWITTER](#)

Membership Application: This is an annual membership from January - December

Mail to: Friends of Wehr 9701 College Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 Make checks payable to Friends of Wehr or renew online at www.friendsofwehr.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY-STATE-ZIP _____

PHONE (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

	Individual	Family
Regular	\$25 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior (65)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer (50 hrs)	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 <input type="checkbox"/>

Payment Method ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____ (payable to Friends of Wehr) Additional Donation \$ _____

☐ Charge (Visa MC Discover AE) # _____ Expires _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ Staff Initials _____ Date Received _____

